



ShakeAlert Seismic Monitoring

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Proposal Name: ShakeAlert Seismic Monitoring

Signing Authority: District Ranger

Proposal Date: 10/4/2019

PALS Tracking #: 60571

Proponent Name: Gillean Arnoux, University of Oregon

Project File: C:\Users\briannakcarollo\Box\01.
brianna.carollo
Workspace\lag2020SmallProjects\ShakeAlert Install

Line Officer: Bill Gamble

Location: Mt. Fanny T3S, R41E, Sec 7

District: La Grande

Project Area Coordinates: 45.309716°, -117.733863°

County(ies): Union

Elevation: 7,060 ft.

Anticipated Implementation: August 2021

APPLICABLE CATEGORY/IES

This proposal is categorically excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS because it fits the following category, pending extraordinary circumstance determinations:

Applicable Category: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(3) (DM Required)

This category is applicable for this project because we are proposing associated improvements to an existing communication facility.



PROPOSAL

Scout Environmental conducted a Categorical Exclusion review for the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with the following proposal for the Mt. Fanny location. This analysis incorporates Scout Environmental's preliminary findings by reference.

As part of natural hazard monitoring, warning, and mitigation, the USGS, the University of Washington and the University of Oregon (jointly referred to as the PNSN) currently operate hundreds of seismic monitoring stations in Washington and Oregon. This Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) will support PNSN (based in Seattle, Washington) and its implementation of (EEW).

The purpose of the project is to provide critical information to promote public health and safety. To meet the operational requirements of Earthquake Early Warning (EEW), the PNSN needs to install new seismograph stations or upgrade existing stations.

The station would consist of modern earthquake recording and telemetry equipment. The equipment would provide live continuous seismic data (both acceleration and velocity data) to enhance earthquake location identification and facilitate EEW.

Up to four workers would construct and install the station over a period of up to three days. The workers would use a compact track loader (or skid steer tractor) along with hand tools, some small power tools and a generator to install the station. Workers would use vehicles to access the station on existing roads/trails. The workers may remove minor vegetation (as needed) from the project area to allow for construction. The maximum area of site disturbance would measure approximately 100 feet x 6 feet.

The site would be located to the northwest of the Blue Mountain Translator District (BMTD) shelter and host a 6-channel strong-motion + broadband posthole sensor, powered via on-site AC power, and transmit data through radio telemetry. A surface conduit would connect the seismic sensor vault to the equipment vault and the equipment vault to an existing shelter; the conduits would house antenna and power (12V DC) cables. A wall-mounted AC-DC converter would be installed inside the existing shelter to run low voltage 12V DC power through the conduit. The radio antenna (heading ~272°) would be mounted on a new antenna tower to the north of the shelter, or on a mount on the existing shelter.

MAP(S)



Figure 1 – Overview of sensor location and conduit path

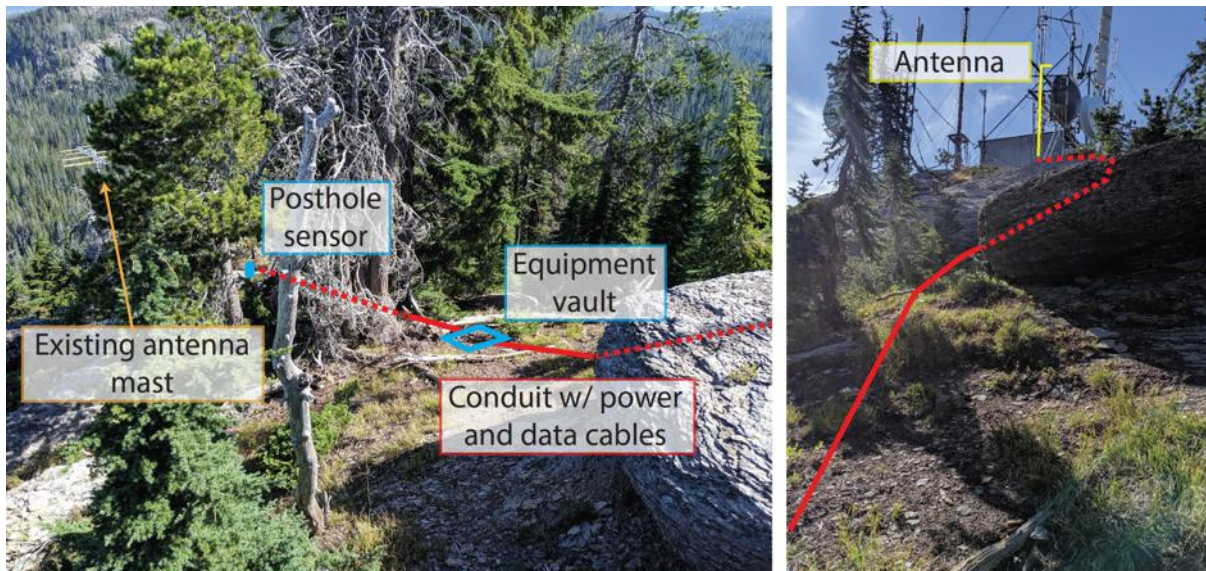


Figure 2 – North facing view of seismic station (left), showing the posthole sensor, equipment vault, and conduit locations. The right image shows the conduit run from the equipment vault to the shelter, as well as the proposed location of the antenna.

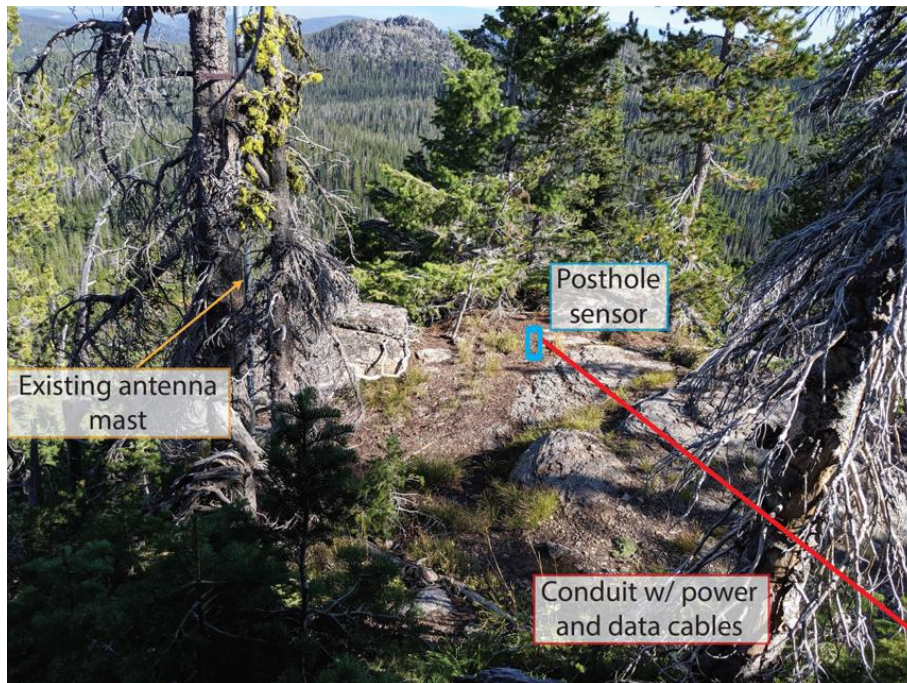


Figure 3 – View of proposed posthole sensor location, which is near an existing antenna mast.

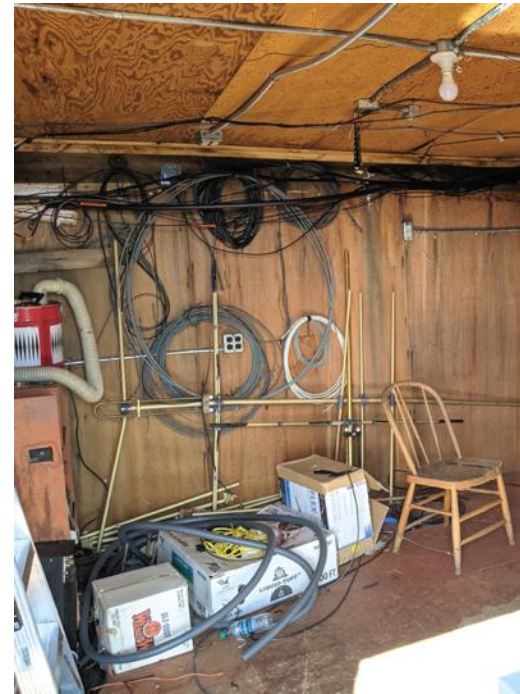


Figure 4 – Proposed location of AC-DC converter inside shelter (orange rectangle). AC power will be drawn from an existing outlet or new run from the breaker box (orange line). 12V DC power will run from the converter box (right image) to the northern side of the shelter, where the conduit will run outside (red line).

PROPOSAL SCREENING

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Given the nature of the proposal, the Responsible Official is requesting documentation to demonstrate compliance with the following regulatory considerations in addition to NEPA:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NFMA/Land Management Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Historic Preservation Act |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species Act | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Consultation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitive Species (FSM 2670) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pertinent Executive Orders |

RESOURCE PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REVIEW



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The Line Officer/Responsible Official has requested the following resource areas to review the proposal to determine compliance with the regulatory considerations.

Table 1: Documentation of Review Completion

Resource	Review Complete
Botany	10/9/2019 Scott Schaefer
Cultural/Heritage	4/9/2021 Sarah Crump
Fisheries	7/29/2021 Sarah Brandy
Soils	10/9/2019 Mary Young
Wildlife	10/8/2020 Laura Navarrete

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS REVIEW

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT (NFMA) – LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSISTENCY

The pertinent specialist has reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations regarding proposal consistency with applicable Land Management Plan direction, standards and guidelines.

Botany: Consistent

Range: N/A

Cultural/Heritage: Consistent

Recreation: N/A

Engineering: N/A

Scenic Resources: N/A

Fisheries: Consistent

Soils: Consistent

Fuels: N/A

Silviculture: N/A

Hydro: N/A

Special Management Areas: Consistent

Minerals: N/A

Wildlife: Consistent

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES &/OR CRITICAL HABITAT
There are no threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species within the project area.

SENSITIVE SPECIES (FSM 2670)

The pertinent specialists reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations for sensitive species:

Table 2: Sensitive Species Impact Determinations

Species	Determination*	Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
American peregrine falcon	NI	The nesting area was surveyed in 2021 and no evidence of use was found. If project implementation is deferred, construction would be avoided from May-August unless another falcon survey is completed to determine the nest is



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Species	Determination*	Rationale (or refer to other project documentation)
		vacant.

NI – No Impact; **MIH**- May Impact Individuals or Habitat, but Will Not Likely Contribute To A Trend Towards Federal Listing Or Loss Of Viability To The Population Or Species; **WIFV** - Will Impact Individuals or Habitat with A Consequence That the Action May Contribute To A Trend Towards Federal Listing Or Cause A Loss Of Viability To The Population Or Species

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA) – SECTION 106 REVIEW

The pertinent specialist has reviewed the proposal and made the following determination regarding Section 106 compliance:

No historic properties affected - 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). Section 106 Review has been completed for the project area and no National Register eligible cultural sites were found.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Based on the nature of the proposal, the line officer/responsible official made the following determination regarding Tribal Consultation:

Consultation with American Indian Tribes has been initiated and is ongoing.

COMMENTS

Forest archaeology staff notified the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation about this project on 04/09/2021. The Forest did not receive any comments about this project.



PERTINENT EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The line officer and/or applicable specialist(s) have determined the proposal is in compliance with the following Executive Orders (EO), which were deemed pertinent based on the nature of the proposal.

- EO 11988, Floodplain Management
- EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- EO 12898, Environmental Justice
- EO 13007, Indian Sacred Sites
- EO 13112, Invasive Species
- EO 13175, Consultation & Coordination w/ Indian Tribal Governments
- EO 13186, Migratory Birds
- EO 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage & Wildlife Conservation

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT(NEPA) – Extraordinary Circumstance Considerations

Pertinent specialists have reviewed the proposal and made the following determinations with regards to presence of extraordinary circumstances:

Table 3: Extraordinary Circumstance Determinations

Resources Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain. ¹
WILDLIFE Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	NO, there is no uncertainty
FISHERIES Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	Rationale for Yes/No: Actions have predictable effects that are limited in scale and duration.

¹Be sure to provide resource context for rationale discussions. Is there something unique to this proposal or existing resource conditions that would lead to greater intensity of effects than would typically be anticipated for similar actions?



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Resources Conditions Considered for Extraordinary Circumstances	Is there a degree of potential effect that raises uncertainty over its significance? Briefly explain. ¹
BOTANY Federally listed threatened or endangered species, Designated critical habitat, Forest Service sensitive species	
Floodplains, wetlands or municipal watersheds	N/A, not present
Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas	
Inventoried roadless areas	
Research natural areas	
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites	NO, there is no uncertainty
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	Rationale for Yes/No: Actions are limited to specific locations that have been approved by forest heritage staff.



DECISION MEMO

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U.S. Forest Service

La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Union County, Oregon

This decision incorporates all previous information in this document and included in the project file.

DECISION & RATIONALE

I have decided to authorize the activities described above in the [Proposal](#) section, to include any modifications identified during environmental analysis and review of regulatory compliance. Authorization to install a seismic sensor on Mt Fanny will improve early warning capabilities for detecting earthquakes helping to improve public safety, and installation of sensor can be implemented without negative impacts to natural resources or the human environment, or conflict with other permitted users/uses at Mt Fanny.

APPLICABLE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION & FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

The [Proposal Information](#) section above provides rationale for categorically excluding this action from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and for using the categorical exclusion found at 36 CFR 220.6(e)3. The [Environmental Analysis Review](#) section documents the finding that no extraordinary circumstances exist, along with findings required by other applicable laws and regulations, demonstrating compliance with the regulatory framework for the activities authorized by this decision.

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS & PERSONS CONTACTED

A [list of agencies, organizations and/or persons contacted](#) regarding this proposal is provided above.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

I intend to implement this decision August 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not subject to an administrative review process (Agriculture Act of 2014 [Pub. L. No. 113-79], Subtitle A, Sec. 8006).

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact:

Ben Walker, Recreation Specialist, 3502 Hwy 30 La Grande, OR 97850, 541-962-8543

8/5/2021

Bill Gamble

La Grande District Ranger



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